

GENDER & SPACE: WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS OF HISTORY (5 Nov 2022 to 15 Jan 2023)

The new heritage exhibition revisits gender and space in the historic compound of Tai Kwun to uncover hidden stories of underrepresented and forgotten women both in and outside the site.

Hong Kong, Friday, 4 November 2022



Tai Kwun is delighted to announce the new heritage exhibition **Gender & Space**, running from 5 November 2022 to 15 January 2023, curated by Dr. Anita Chung, Head of Heritage.

The programming of the Heritage team has been strategically building on the value of heritage to contribute to sustainable development, while harnessing the power of culture as a driver of change. Recent programmes include *Tai Kwun Conversations: UNESCO Series* and the summer exhibition *Breathing with Trees*. Now, a new heritage exhibition focuses on gender, which will run in parallel with another forthcoming gender-related exhibition presented by Tai Kwun Contemporary.

Gender & Space focuses on underrepresented or forgotten women in history, asking essential questions, such as how far we have come in the quest for gender equality in our city, and whether the past can illuminate the present and provide insights for a better future? Tai Kwun's Duplex Studio shifts back in time to bring women out of the shadows of history and opens up new, transformative spaces for contemporary dialogue on gender issues.

The exhibition adopts a gender lens to revisit the first hundred years of history of the Central Police Station compound, from 1841 to 1941. Using photographic images, architectural drawings, and archival information to support curatorial interpretation, the

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exhibition uncovers hidden traces of gendered spaces and invisible women in a historic place of power and masculinity—a man’s world designed by and for men. The alternative stories fill a gap in the site’s history, which scarcely mentions the women in the workforce who supported its operations, the expatriate wives who made their homes in Hong Kong, and gender-related crime and imprisonment issues.

Visitors to *Gender & Space* are also confronted with questions and structural issues surrounding gender inequality in the wider society of old Hong Kong. The exhibition explores women’s experience in both the private and public spheres. It includes stories of the powerless and marginalised, as well as those who exercised female agency to advocate change. The show offers a diverse picture of power relations in the construction of gender and space.

In the exhibition space, there is a symbolic, mirror-clad platform, which visitors are invited to ascend and complete the exhibition experience by reflecting on their gender roles and identities. Named **“Gender Salon,”** this is also an inclusive space for community engagement in gender dialogue. It comprises a roster of over 10 dialogues that touch on diverse subjects, including minority voices, the male gaze, sex work and human trafficking, and domestic carers; two workshops on the traditional weaving of patterned ribbons of Hakka and Weitou women; and a “bridal laments” performance by women from Lung Yeuk Tau village in Fanling. The Salon visualises the relationship between gender and space in the contemporary cultural context. All Gender Salon programmes are open to the public and are free of charge, apart from the workshops.

Gender & Space invites reflection on how every individual has the power to bring about positive change and help build an equal and inclusive society. **Dr. Anita Chung, Head of Heritage of Tai Kwun and curator of the exhibition,** said, “*Gender & Space* is designed as a safe and reflective space for engaging in meaningful discussion on gender and social equity. We seek to understand history from multiple perspectives, acknowledging not only the different forms of inequality, but also their underlying causes. It is crucial to examine the structures in place and the interlocking systems of power that determine who is free or unfree, powerful or powerless, and dominant or subordinate. *Gender & Space* shows that gender identity is complex, multi-layered and ever-changing, and why we must challenge discriminatory practices and address the needs and aspirations of all members of society to bring about positive change.”

In parallel with *Gender & Space*, Tai Kwun will present *Myth Makers—Spectrosynthesis III*, another gender-related exhibition to explore alternative gender representations, queer mythologies, and practices of the body from new and exciting perspectives, from 24 December 2022 to 10 April 2023 at JC Contemporary.

Gender Salon–Public Programme Details:

Dialogues	Schedule
The Legend of Ng Akew	Katty Law Convener, Central and Western Concern Group 17.11.2022 1-2pm
South Asian Women of Hong Kong	Shalini Mahtani Founder and CEO, The Zubin Foundation 24.11.2022 1-2pm
Sex, Crime, and Punishment: On Sex Work and Human Trafficking	Sealing Cheng Associate Professor, Anthropology Department, The Chinese University of Hong Kong 26.11.2022 2-3pm
Curator's Tour	Anita Chung Head of Heritage, Tai Kwun 1.12.2022 1-2pm 8.1.2023 3-4pm
Living in the Shadows: Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong	Manisha Wijesinghe Executive Director, HELP for Domestic Workers 8.12.2022 1-2pm
Transmitting the Craft Tradition of Cheongsam	Haidee Or Co-founder, WeToastHK 10.12.2022 2-3pm
When Eileen Chang "Met" Stella Benson	Nicole Huang Professor, Comparative Literature, The University of Hong Kong 10.12.2022 3:30-4:30pm
Changemakers: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	Maria Tam Director, Multiculturalism in Action Project, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Corn Sim Assistant Service Supervisor, The Salvation Army 17.12.2022 3-4pm

Minority Voices: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	Akhtar Yasmine Teacher Khan Mohammad Harris Shah Hi! Stranger Community Tour Guide 17.12.2022 4-5pm
The Male Gaze: Gender Matters in Parks	Amanda Tang Co-founder, Park Flâneuse 5.1.2023 1-2pm
Bridal Laments: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Lung Yeuk Tau	Caritas Lung Yeuk Tau Community Development Project 7.1.2023 2-3pm

Workshops	Schedule
All Weaves in my Heart: Patterned Bands of Hakka and Weitou Women	Caritas Lung Yeuk Tau Community Development Project 3.12.2022 2-3pm 7.1.2023 4-5pm

All Gender Salon: Dialogues are open to the public and are free of charge.
Admission fee for workshops: \$100 per person, \$160 Family Pass (1 Adult, 1 Child); register on the Tai Kwun website.

Programme details are subject to change, so please refer to the Tai Kwun website for news and updates: <https://www.taikwun.hk/en/programme/detail/gender-salon/1105>.

Gender & Space

Curated by Dr Anita Chung, Head of Heritage, Tai Kwun
5.11.2022-15.1.2023

11am-7pm

Block 01 Duplex Studio, Tai Kwun

<https://www.taikwun.hk/en/programme/detail/gender-and-space/1083>

Please click [here](#) to download hi-res images with captions.

Visitor information

The entire site of Tai Kwun is open to the public daily from 8am to 11pm.

All visitors will be required to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" App upon entering Tai Kwun and must either provide a COVID-19 vaccination record or the relevant exemption certificate for inspection upon request in accordance with the Vaccine Pass Direction. Exhibition and event spaces in Tai Kwun are subject to active checking of Vaccine Pass. The frequency of cleansing is being stepped up for high-contact surfaces throughout the day, and hand

sanitiser stations are available throughout Tai Kwun. Visit the Tai Kwun website for more details: https://www.taikwun.hk/en/visit/visiting_tai_kwun.

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About Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts

Tai Kwun is Hong Kong’s Centre for Heritage and Arts – a cultural destination for inspiration, stimulation and enjoyment. We aspire to offer the best heritage and arts experiences, and to cultivate knowledge and appreciation of contemporary art, performing arts and history in the community.

Tai Kwun invites all visitors on a journey of discovery that unites across multiple genres of arts, heritage, culture and lifestyle in Hong Kong. Here, visitors will discover the rich heritage of the site through the thematic exhibitions and immersive public programmes that explore Hong Kong’s history and culture, alongside a multitude of vibrant and inclusive contemporary art presentations and performing arts offerings all year round.

Opened in May 2018 and operating on a not-for-profit model, Tai Kwun is the fruition of a joint partnership between The Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Government of the HKSAR to conserve and revitalise the buildings of the historic Central Police Station compound, which represents one of the most significant revitalisation projects in Hong Kong. The site comprises three Declared Monuments of Hong Kong – the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison – all have been meticulously conserved, with unfailing attention to authenticity. The site also includes two new buildings – JC Contemporary and JC Cube, by renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron – and several outdoor spaces – Parade Ground, Prison Yard and Laundry Steps – providing an exciting venue for the public programmes presented by Tai Kwun and its partners.

Tai Kwun, which means “big station” in Chinese, is the colloquial name used by Hong Kong people to refer to the former police headquarters and the surrounding compound. The name has been adopted as a reminder of the historical importance of this living heritage site.

In 2019, Tai Kwun received the Award of Excellence in the 2019 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. This is the highest honour of the prestigious Awards, which bestows an international recognition of the outstanding achievement in the conservation and revitalisation efforts of Tai Kwun.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.TaiKwun.hk>.

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